

Award, which is the highest award a Cub Scout can earn.

After completing the Cub Scout program, Hamilton joined Boy Scout Troop 66. During his tenure in the Boy Scouts, Hamilton has earned 37 merit badges, far surpassing the 21 merit badges that are required. This accomplishment is all the more impressive, considering Hamilton is only 14 years old.

Hamilton is a model citizen amongst the youth in our country and my district. His proven leadership and remarkable accomplishments have truly made his family and community proud. I am confident that Hamilton will use the skills he has acquired for the rest of his life as tools for the betterment of his community, state and country. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hamilton Stephens Winters on this monumental achievement.

DR. CINDY STEVENSON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Cindy Stevenson, superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools for her selection as finalist in the 2010 Superintendent of the Year. Of the 49 state-level finalists only four nominees are chosen. This program along with ARAMARK Education, ING and the American Association of School Administrators celebrates the contributions and leadership of top public school superintendents like Dr. Stevenson.

Dr. Stevenson's service to Jefferson County schools has helped with the development of its teachers and educational leaders. She has always held a strong focus on student achievement, improving teaching and learning, creating community partnerships and focusing on continuous improvement for all Jefferson County schools. The work of a superintendent like Dr. Stevenson has resulted in a number of successful academic communities in Jefferson County.

To reach this point in the nomination process Dr. Stevenson was required to fulfill a list of rigorous criteria. Among the qualifying factors Dr. Stevenson had to exemplify creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in the school system, exemplary strength in both personal and organizational communication, a constant improvement of administrative knowledge and active participation in local community activities. Dr. Stevenson has met and exceeded this criteria and her nomination and successes confirm this.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Stevenson for her selection as finalist for the 2010 Superintendent of the Year. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
CORPORAL JAMES SZUBA

### HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal James

Szuba, a nearly eight year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty.

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, an intoxicated driver, in the act of fleeing from a pursuing officer, struck Corporal Szuba's patrol car as he was responding to a call for assistance. On board was his eight-year-old canine partner, a German Shepherd named Ricky, who was also killed upon impact.

Mishawaka Police Assistant Chief Mike Samp noted "He was very dedicated. He was one of those officers who would step up and help an officer if they needed anything. He was an outstanding officer who is going to be greatly missed around here." In 2004 he and three fellow officers were presented the Officer of the Year Award by the Indiana Council of Fraternal, Veterans and Social Societies after they rescued a five-year-old boy from drowning in a frozen neighborhood pond. Cpl. Szuba also received several letters of commendation and his performance evaluation noted that he "is one of the most dependable and trustworthy officers . . . he has leadership skills and is well respected by his peers and supervisors."

James followed a family tradition of service; his late father, Floyd, was an officer and his brother, John, is a sergeant with the nearby South Bend Police Department. Cpl. Szuba was trained in patrol tactics and narcotics searches. He was also an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy firearms instructor for the Mishawaka Police Department.

Corporal Szuba leaves behind his mother, Gerri, his wife, Debbie, a son, Joshua and daughter, Stephanie, two brothers and two sisters as well as many friends, relatives and fellow officers. Madam Speaker, we grieve for the loss of Corporal James Szuba. Let us always value that America's police officers serve to protect our country, day in and day out, regardless of the dangers they face. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING VALDOSTA,  
GEORGIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 150th birthday of Valdosta, Georgia. This impressive milestone allows us to take the time to celebrate the city's progress over the past 150 years.

Valdosta was incorporated as a town in 1860, when Troupville, the previous Lowndes County seat, relocated to follow the expanding railroad. The city of Valdosta is home to more than 46,000 people, as well as Moody Air Force Base, where President George W. Bush received his National Guard flight training. Valdosta is commonly referred to as the "Azalea City," as the red, pink, and white plants bloom in abundance throughout the city, especially in the spring.

According to tradition, the first train came over the new road to Valdosta on July 4, 1860. Willis Allen was designated as the first manager of the railroad, which was then called Savannah, Florida, & Western and later became part of the Atlantic Coast Line. Valdosta

was primarily an agricultural city, and with time it became the largest inland market for Sea Island cotton in the world, until the boll weevil beetle eliminated the crop in 1917. Today, Valdosta's agriculture consists mainly of row crops such as tobacco, cotton and peanuts.

Valdosta has been the home of many skilled athletes, which earned the town the 2008 "Tittletown, USA" award by ESPN. With 14 national titles, 47 conference titles, 99 state titles, and 289 region titles, Valdosta has certainly earned this honor. Valdosta has also thrived in the artistic realm. A number of comedians, actors, and musicians have emerged from Valdosta. The original "Jingle Bells" tune was even composed by one of Valdosta's music teachers, James Lord Pierpont. Valdosta's symphony orchestra—composed of local artists, students, and professors at Valdosta State University—attracts guest performers of international reputation. The Arts and Balloon Festival, held in April, serves to celebrate all of these artistic endeavors.

Whether you are admiring the beauty of Valdosta at the annual Azalea festival in March, watching one of the city's athletes perform on the national stage, or simply encountering friendly faces as you pass through one of Valdosta's many parks and historic districts, the city is no doubt a captivating one. From its birth in 1860 until today, the year of its Sesquicentennial Celebration, Valdosta has remained one of the nation's greatest and most productive cities. It is one of the many cities that keep Georgia on the mind, and I am proud to celebrate its history with you today.

HOPE FOR HAITI

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathy to the people of Haiti as they cope with the aftermath of yesterday's massive earthquake. The tremendous loss of life and the untold devastation has left the capital of Port-au-Prince in ruins and countless families facing the untold horrors of loved ones injured or killed. This earthquake has shown us nature's worst.

The world's response to this awful tragedy will demonstrate the best of human nature. Many people will offer relief and assistance, through time and money. As we have always done in times of international disaster, the United States is sending aid to Haiti, including Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team 1 (USAR Team 1), which deployed this morning.

USAR Team 1 is one of two urban search and rescue teams nationwide that report to the U.S. Agency for International Development—Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance for humanitarian deployments. This highly trained rescue team has deployed to numerous locations across the globe, saving lives in areas such as Armenia, Indonesia, Romania, Kenya, Bolivia, Oklahoma City, and the Pentagon, providing critical lifesaving rescues, especially in building collapse situations.

In this terrible time of tragedy, Fairfax County's USAR Team 1 represents the best that America has to offer, hope and a commitment